

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 ARA-10 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4744

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2476

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, RQ, US

SUBJ: CALL BY THE GOVERNOR OF PUERTO RICO

REF: 76 STATE 251118

1. ON AUGUST 2, GOVERNOR CARLOS ROMERO BARCELLO, SECRETARY OF STATE PANIAGUA AND MS. BEBE SMITH, FROM THE WASHINGTON OFFICE OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO, CALLED ON AMBASSADOR YOUNG AT THE GOVERNOR'S REQUEST.

2. YOUNG EXPRESSED REGRET THAT HE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO VISIT PUERTO RICO DURING HIS CARIBBEAN TRIP AND PLEASURE AT THE EXCUSE THAT HE NOW HAD FOR A SPECIAL TRIP TO PUERTO RICO LATER IN THE YEAR. HE SAID THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO VISIT PUERTO RICO SOME TIME AFTER MID-SEPTEMBER, BUT THAT IT WOULD DEPEND ON HOW THE SCHEDULE OF THE 32ND UNGA EVOLVES.

3. THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT HE HAD RECEIVED INFORMATION, WHICH AT FIRST APPEARED RELIABLE, THAT THE ELECTRIC, BUS, FIREMEN'S AND WATER WORKERS' UNIONS ("COMMUNIST LED") MIGHT BE PLANNING A MASSIVE STRIKE ON THE VEN OF THE COMMITTEE OF 24 (C-24) CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO, POSSIBLE
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REQUIRING CALLING OUT THE NATINAL GUARD. IN TALKS WITH THE LEADERS OF THE ELECTRIC AND BUS DRIVERS' UNIONS ON AUGUST 1, THE GOVERNOR DETECTED UNCERTAINTY ABOUT WHAT COURSE THEY WILL FOLLOW. HE PROMISED TO KEEP US FULLY INFORMED.

4. YOUNG AND MISSOFF BRIEFED THE GOVERNOR ON THE

STATE OF PLAY OF C-24 CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO.
YOUNG SAID THAT C-24 CHAIRMAN SALIM WANTS TO
"DISPOSE" OF THE ITEM. HE SAID HE HAD SUGGESTED THAT HE
AND SALIM VISIT PUERTO RICO TOGETHER AND THAT IT
WAS HIS IMPRESSION THAT SALIM WISHES TO BE INVITED IN HIS
CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF 24, WHICH HE UNDER-
STANDS THE DEPARTMENT WOULD OBJECT TO. YOUNG POINTED OUT
THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN INVITING SALIM IN HIS CAPACITY AS
TANZANIAN PERM REP VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE. MISOFF
ELABORATED ON THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH AN INVITATION TO
SALIM QUA C-24 CHAIRMAN WOULD POSE. MISOFF POINTED OUT
THAT SIMILAR PROBLEMS WOULD SURROUND ANY INVITATION TO A
C-24 VISITING MISSION AND NOTED THAT THE YUGOSLAVS HAD
TOLD US A REQUEST FOR A VISITING MISSION MIGHT EMERGE FROM
THIS YEAR'S C-24 SESSION. YOUNG SAID THAT THIS IS AN ISSUE
WE MIGHT HAVE TO "GIVE" ON. THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT ANY C-24
VISITING MISSION COULD CAUSE SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES
SINCE A MASSIVE DEMONSTRATIONS '50,000-60,000) COULD BE
ORGANIZED IN PUERTO RICO. MISOFF POINTED OT THAT WE HAVE
APPROACHED C-24 CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO WITH PARTICULAR
CAUTION BECAUSE OF THE DANGER OF VIOLENCE IN PUERTO RICO
THAT COULD COME IN ITS WAKE.

5. THE GOVERNOR SAID TO JUST LET HIM KNOW WHAT WE
DECIDE ABOUT EXTENDING INVITATION TO C-24 (IN THEIR NON-
C-24 CAPACITY) AND OTHER PERM REPS. CURTIS HOXTER,
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WHO DOES PUBLIC RELATIONS WORK FOR THE COMMONWEALTH AND
SERVES AS THE GOVERNOR'S LIAISON WITH USUN, IS CHECKING
BARCELLO'S SCHEDULE TO SEEK CONVENIENT DATES FOR A SALIM
VISIT PRIOR TO AUGUST 16.

6. COMMENT: USUN CANNOT AGREE WITH SALIM'S SUGGESTION
THAT AN INVITATION TO VISIT PUERTO RICO BE
EXTENDED TO HIM IN HIS CAPACITY AS C-24 CHAIRMAN SINCE
THIS WOULD INTER ALIA IMPUGN THE DECISION MADE BBY THE PEOPLE OF
PUERTO RICO AS WELL AS THE ELECTORAL PROCESS IN PUERTO RICO.
WE HOWEVER BELIEVE IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY USEFUL TO EXTEND
ANOTHER INVITATION TO SALIM (AS TANZANIAN PERM REP)
TO VISIT PUERTO RICO PRIOR TO AUGUST 15. (IN OCTOBER 1976
(REFTEL), WE INVITED HIM, ON BEHALF OF FORMER GOVERNOR
HERNANDEZ COLON AND THE UNA ASSOCIATION OF THE USA,
TO VISIT PUERTO RICO FROM OCTOBER 30-NOVEMBER 4 OR IN
JANUARY, IF MORE CONVENIENT. SALIM DID NOT ACCEPT.)
HOXTER ASSURES US THAT THE GOVERNOR WOULD BE HAPPY TO
HOST A VISIT BY SALIM AS TANZANIAN PERM REP AND THAT THE
COMMONWEALTH WOULD COVER LOCAL EXPENSES. (WE UNDERSTAND
THAT THE UNA OF THE USA FUNDS FOR FIRST-CLASS, ROUND-
TRIP AIR FARES FOR UN PERM REPS TO PUERTO RICO AS STILL

AVAILABLE.) END COMMENT.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ARE REQUESTED
REGARDING INVITATION TO SALIM.
YOUNG

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Message Attributes

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